

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015, 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Chad Miller EMS Director; Bob Demers, Sue Demers, Pat Lefebvre, Mike Waddell, Henry Sanschagrin

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Schall.

2. Appointments:

3. New Business

a) Tinker Brook Engineering RFP: TM Frost presented the Board with a copy of the RFP for the engineering of the Tinker Brook Project. Chairman Schall asked what was needed from the Board at this time. TM Frost stated that the RFP has been sent out to several engineering firms, which includes the engineering firm that prepared the original estimate. She will keep the Board informed as information is received.

b) Sign Cemetery Plot Deed: TM Frost presented the Board with a standard Cemetery Deed for their signatures. The Deed is for a plat in the Evans Cemetery Wight Addition, Lot 113. The Board signed the Deed.

c) Recreation Bus Purchase: Chairman Schall stated that money had been saved in the Capital Reserve Fund to replace a bus. RD Stewart stated that he received pricing from two dealers. He stated that the monies to purchase the bus will be taken out of the CRF with the balance needed taken from the revolving fund. At this time, the dealer located in Concord has the best price. Selectman LaPierre asked RD Stewart if when the bus is rented is insurance provided by the entity/person renting the bus and how much is the rental fee. RD Stewart stated that there are two different rental prices depending on whether or not a driver is provided. He is working on the insurance element. RD Stewart stated that he does not plan to acquire the bus until August as it is in the process of being built. **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to move forward with the purchase of a new bus using the Capital Reserve Fund monies along with monies from the Revolving Fund for said purchase, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost asked the Board if they would be open to moving the Information Booth Renovations agenda item. The Board agreed to move that agenda item forward. Chairman Schall stated that at the last meeting he had questioned the estimate for completion of the renovations and asked to see the estimates at this meeting. RD Stewart explained that when he looked for pricing originally, he asked contractors for an approximate price in case the work was not approved. Since the last meeting he asked three contractors for a more thorough pricing. The lowest price was provided by Lavigne Builders in the amount of \$13,000. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to accept the lowest bidder, Lavigne Builders – Bid amount: \$13,000 for the Information Booth renovations. Capital Reserve Money will be used for this project, and further moves to approve and move forward**

with the sign renovations in the amount of \$2,170, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, voted unanimously.

d) Eversource Energy Divestiture – Hydro Dam: TM Frost stated that as seen in the news, Eversource (formerly PSNH) will be selling off some of their assets. Since there is a Hydro in the Town, it has been recommended by Attorney Boldt that we intervene so the Town is involved in the sale. The Board agreed to move forward with filing for an “Intervener Status” with the Public Utilities Commission. The Board also asked TM Frost to speak with Berlin’s City Manager to review the matter with him as they have filed an intervener as well. TM Frost stated that she would keep this matter on the agenda to keep the Board informed as well as get a cost estimate to the Board for the filing.

e) Highway Safety Grant: TM Frost presented the Board with an application for a Highway Safety Grant for seatbelt compliance and enforcement. Every year this Grant is applied for by the Police Department. The Board signed the Grant application.

f) Date for Public Hearing to Consider Opening Cascade Flats and Cascade Hill to OHRV Use: Chairman Schall stated that they had all met with Chris Gamache of the NH Trails Bureau to discuss opening Cascade Hill and Cascade Flats to OHRV traffic. TM Frost informed the Board that she had spoken with Keith Roberge and although she had sent an email to Mr. Roberge to tell him about the meeting, the message was inadvertently forwarded to an incorrect address. She stated that she would have Mr. Roberge come into the next meeting. Selectman LaPierre recommended that the Board combine the Jimtown Road/Cascade Flats/Cascade Hill into one public hearing. Therefore it was agreed that the Board would add Mr. Roberge to the next meeting’s agenda and plan to hold the public hearing on April 20th prior to the Board’s meeting. While Chief Cyr was at this meeting the Board asked him what he thought about OHRV traffic crossing Route 16 to go from the Hill to the Flats. Chief Cyr created a diagram outlining the possible variables and how dangerous this location could be for ATV traffic, especially because fourteen year olds can operate their own bike on the road. Chief Cyr said that at this time he would say that in his opinion that crossing location would be a “no-go”. Further discussion took place with regard to this trail crossing location as well as other possible alternatives.

4. Old Business

a) Ambulance Contracts: TM Frost stated that she had not heard anything from either Shelburne or Randolph since the last email correspondence. At this time the Town is still providing services and asked the Board how they wanted to continue. She felt that cutting off the service at the end of the month, which is just over a week away, is not fair to the either of the Towns. She suggested that the Board allow the services to continue until the end of April, if Shelburne and Randolph still declined to sign the contract. Chairman Schall suggested that TM Frost send both Towns a letter stating that if the contract was not going to be executed, then Gorham would no longer provide service effective April 30th. Selectman LaPierre stated that she would like to ask both Towns to meet one more time to find out why they did not want to sign the contract. Selectman Oliver stated that he would like to meet one more time as well. All Board members agreed to ask Randolph and Shelburne to meet with them to find out why they did not want to sign the contract. However, all agreed that while they wanted to speak to Randolph and Shelburne regarding this matter, they did not want to negotiate further or make any changes to the proposed contract. TM Frost will contact both Towns with regard to this request.

b) KRT Assessing Contract Renewal: TM Frost stated that although the Board just executed the 2014 Assessing Contract it is time to do the renewal for 2015. She suggested that the Board entertain a two year contract instead of a one year so that KRT could finish up the measuring and listing 25% of the Town. The Board agreed to have a two year contract prepared for KRT Appraisals. Selectman LaPierre asked about a contract for Skip Sansoucy. TM Frost stated that she spoke with Mr. Sansoucy about six weeks ago with regard to his contract. To date, TM Frost has not received/heard from Mr. Sansoucy.

c) Information Booth Renovations: Please see above agenda item "Recreation Bus Purchase".

5. Public Comment:

Mike Waddell asked the Board if in light of the current proposed State budget cuts for education, if they planned to reach out to our local representatives.

TM Frost spoke to the Board about matters that need to be handled by the Board go through her office. Chairman Schall stated that all matters that the Board is working on should go through TM Frost, not with one-on-one conversations between Town representatives. He stated that while the Board cannot prohibit all communications, he stressed that matters need to go to the Board through the Town Manager's office.

Henry Sanschagrín asked the Board about the rail trail from Jimtown Road to the trails parking lot. TM Frost stated that the Town had received correspondence from Jeff Rose of the NH Trails Bureau stated that they will not consider opening that portion of the rail trail. TM Frost informed Mr. Sanschagrín that she will get him a copy of the letter.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost presented the Board with Appointments for the ZBA. PJ Cyr and Wayne Flynn for three year terms; Rick Eichler for a one year term and Lenny Knowles for a one year term as alternate. The Board signed the Appointment Certificates.

TM Frost informed the Board that the Town's EQ rate had been set at 95.4%, noting that it had gone up from last year.

b) Selectmen's Update: The Board discussed the 2015 Assignments. The Board agreed to leave the Assignments as they were for 2014 and are as follows: Chairman - Jeff Schall; Vice-Chair - Grace LaPierre; NCC Transportation Advisory Committee - Terry Oliver Primary, Robin Frost Alternate; AVRRDD – Yves Zornio Primary, Paul Robitaille Alternate; Planning Board – Jeff Schall; Budget Committee – Terry Oliver; Medallion Opera House Committee – Grace LaPierre.

c) Approval of Minutes (March 9, 2015): Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2015, meeting as presented, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): None were presented.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II c: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:35 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board came out of non-public session by unanimous roll call vote at 7:50 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver